

ICT4D WEEK 2

DEVELOPMENT

Dimensions, Approaches, Alternative Perspectives

Let us pick up the thread

- Development is highly contested concept having wide ranges of meanings and connotations
- In common parlance, it denotes a process of growth and progression towards betterment; a positive growth which is considered qualitatively good
- It is a value judgemental concept, highly political and linked to power structure in society
- Development as a discourse denotes various meanings getting assigned to the word development through narratives, speech, communication, language.
- Development: **what**, for **whom**, and **how**? Changing the referent point changes the meaning of development.
- The contemporary development discourse has its origin in post world war II foreign policies of USA/'West' aimed towards development and modernization of the 3rd world countries.

What are intended to be covered?

- Dimensions of development
- Approaches to development
- Alternative meanings and models of development

Discourse of Development: Genealogy

- In ancient period, philosophers considered human progress cyclical
 - **Aristotle**- virtuous conditions degenerate over time, then regenerate
- Enlightenment period(18th century Europe)- progress in human civilization **linear**, may be **continuous** with scientific evolution- liberal conception of development
- **Hegel**: Continuous Progress in human civilization through development of ideas- *thesis-antithesis- synthesis*
- **Marx**: development is continuous progression in mode of production through class struggle
- 1949: **Truman's** famous address gave contemporary discourse of development
 - Developed vs underdeveloped
 - Development as faster production, and material well-being by scientific, technocratic methods by experts and by employing capital
 - Development is Modernization
 - Universal concept, mechanisms across all socio-cultural contexts

Development and Modernisation theory

- During 1950s-70s, the Western World led by USA created the discourse of Development and modernization
- **'Developmentalism'** - conceptual paradigm
 - there is a fixed path of development & modernization as traversed by western nations; by following the same path, poor 3rd world nations would also become developed.
- **Development:**
 - Rapid industrialization, free trade, leverage market, fast GDP growth, economic prosperity, material comforts, etc.
- **Modernization:**
 - Liberal Democracy, modern institutions, modern education, health, transport, communication system; modern political values- Liberty, Rights, Equality, pluralism, secularism, reason/rationality, scientific temper, individual autonomy, etc.
- In western discourse development is universal, objective, scientific, technocratic, progressive, and politically neutral

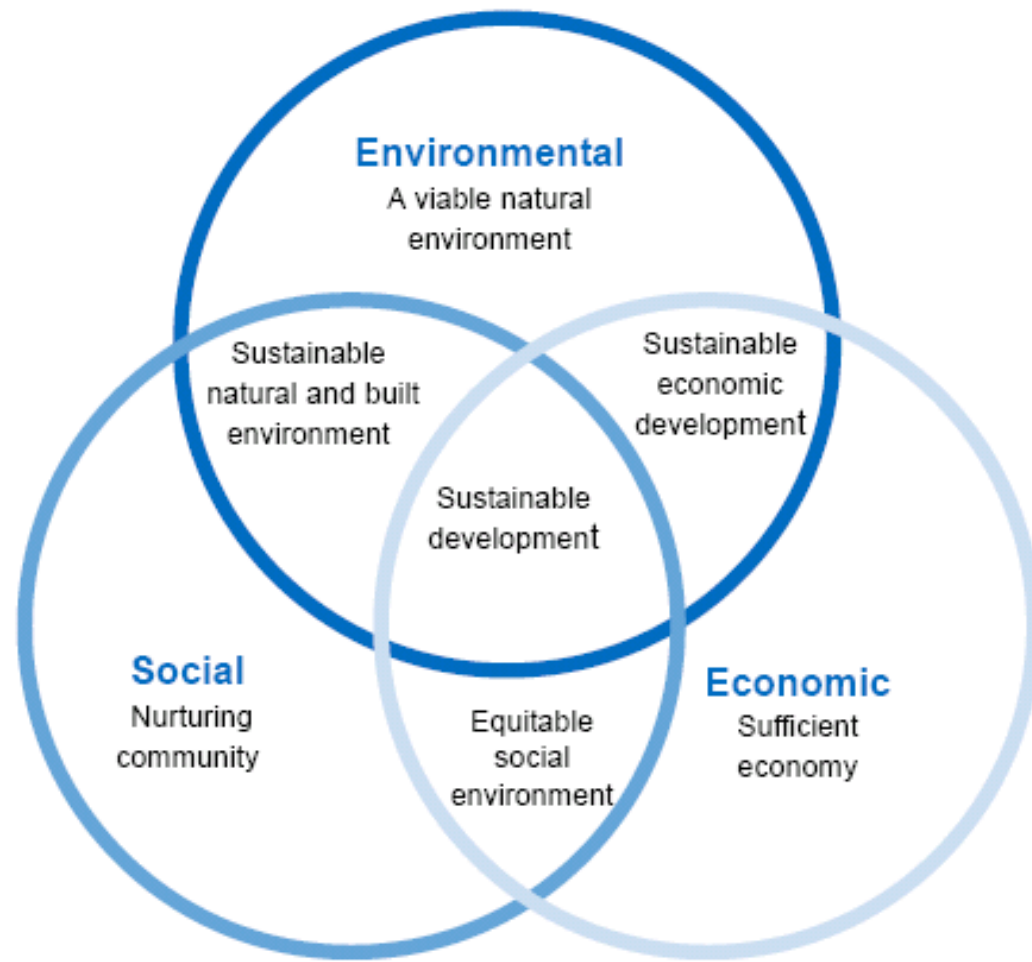
Challenges to Developmentalism : Dependency Theory

- **Dependency theory** criticized the dominant model of development as 'Eurocentric', furthering the capitalist interests of the 'West'.
- Challenged the Western discourse of development; In this view ideology, interest, and politics permeate the discourse of development
- **Core vs Periphery**
 - Global economic system- **core**- developed nations of 'West'; **periphery**: poor nations of 3rd world
- **Metropolitan vs satellite**
 - Developed region of poor 3rd world nations act as satellite of Metropolitan centers in West
 - Metro- satellite pattern in underdeveloped nation
- **'Development of Underdevelopment'**

Dimensions of Development

Dimensions of development

- Economic
- Social
- Cultural
- Political
- Environmental
- Human



Path to sustainable development

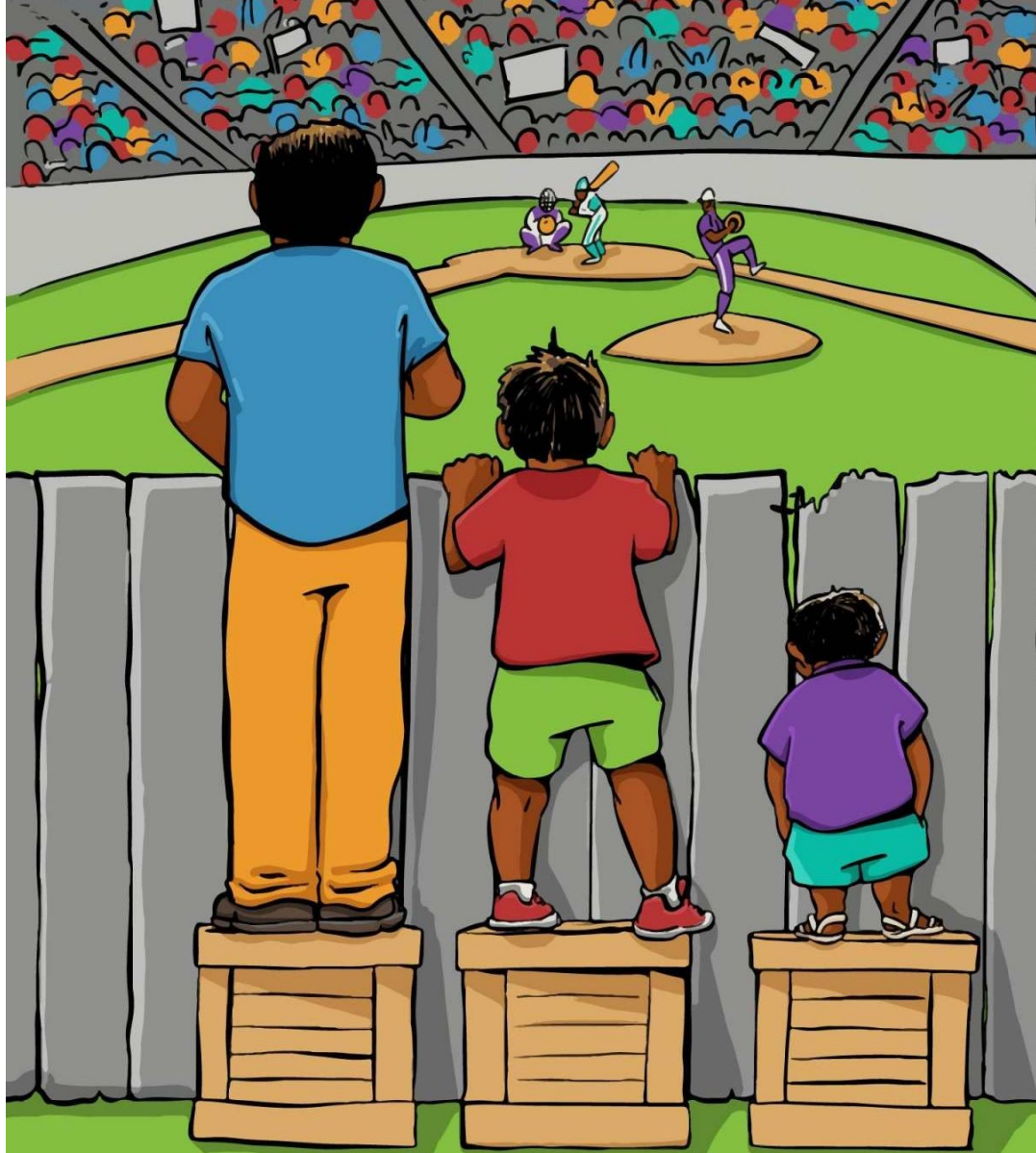
All the dimensions of development are interconnected

Economic Dimension of development

- Mainstream discourse on development
- Faster growth of GDP, robust infrastructure, industrialization, technological innovations, material comforts, modern life style
- Main aim of the development and modernization theories
- Development as apolitical, technocratic, and scientific concept
- Universal aim, methods/mechanisms, processes, stages.
- Linked to Liberal free market economic ideology and the Income approach to development

Social Dimension of development

- Socio-political arrangements to facilitate fulfilled and flourished life of the individual
- Nurturing communities
- Social harmony, Social solidarity- we or community feeling
- Social equity, social justice, socio-political freedom and rights
- Less inequal, hierarchical, and oppressive social structures
- Balance between individual rights and societal common Good



EQUALITY



EQUITY

Cultural Dimension of development

- Stable cultural structure providing meaningful choices to its members
- Multiculturalism- unity in diversity
- Toleration, pluralism, and recognition to minority cultures
- Protecting Minority Rights, Rights of indigenous people
- Providing group & cultural rights
- Equality among cultures- both within a nation and at global level
- Absence of cultural hegemony

Political Dimension of Development

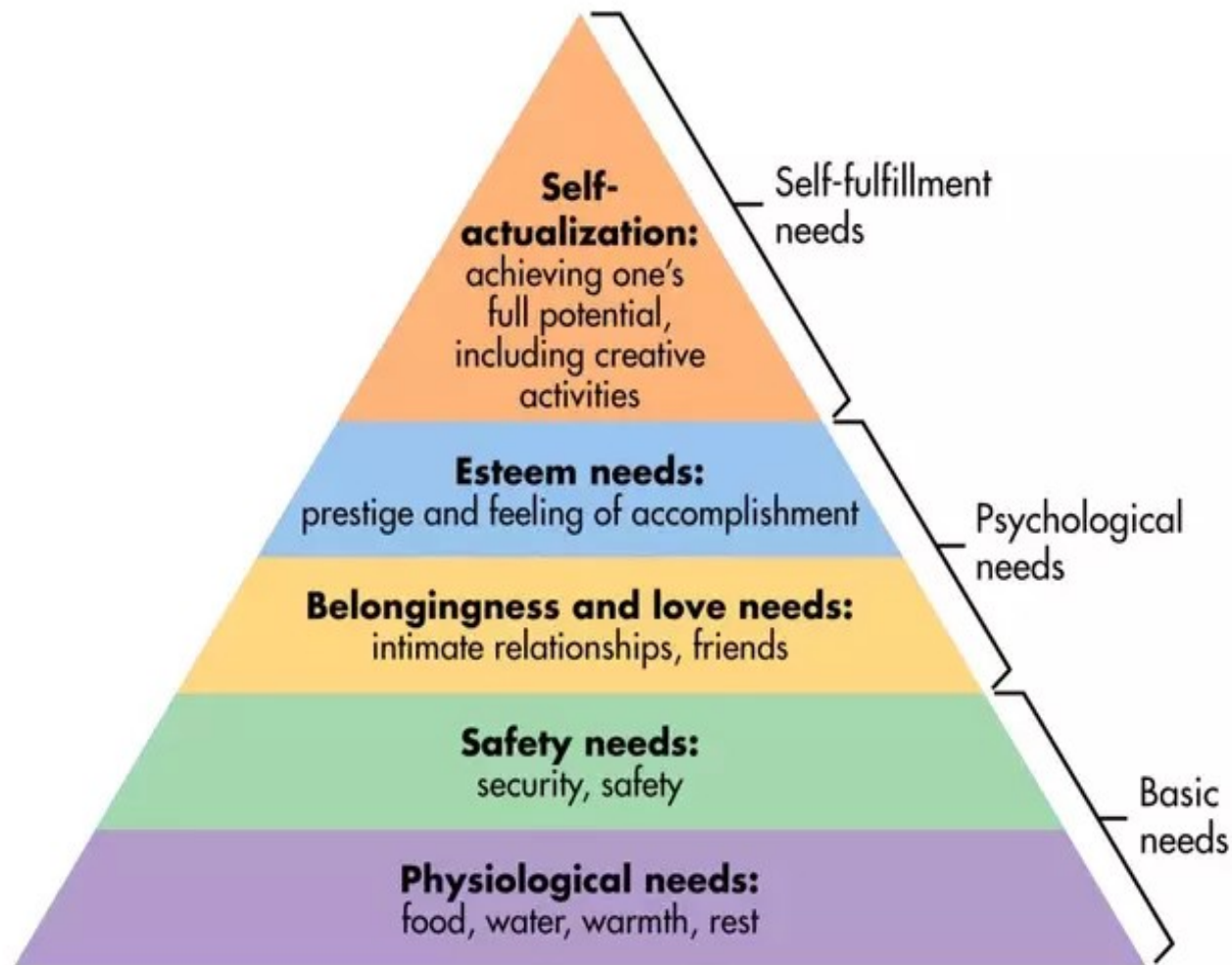
- Capacity of the political system to provide stable, efficient, and effective government to facilitate well being of the citizen
- Efficient political institutions
- Participative political culture, civic culture
- Adopting Good Governance model
- Political equality, freedom, and rights
- Less divisive and more constructive political system

Environmental Dimension of development

- Nurturing natural environment
- Maintaining ecological balance, bio-diversity
- Circular economic model
- Using natural resources wisely
- Inter-generational equity
- Fulfilled & flourished human life in harmony with nature
 - Obeying natural laws, natural justice
- Sustainable development

Human Development

Psychological dimension : Maslow's hierarchy of needs



Theory of human developmental psychology

Once a lower level need is met, more or less, one start to feel higher level need

Human develops by rising on the need hierarchy

Flourished, fulfilled life is one which could meet the Self-actualization need

Human Development-1/3

- Development is all about enlarging people's choices in order to lead long, healthy lives with dignity (**Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq**)
- Development is increasing freedom through social and political institutions and processes (**Prof Amartya Sen**)
- Freedom is capabilities to do desired things and achieve well-being
- Human Development:
 - Resources & capabilities to make choices to have meaningful life
 - Process of improving human life, making it more meaningful- human flourishing
 - **By** (as given by Economist **Michael Todaro**)
 - 1. increase standard of living ;
 - 2. Increasing range of choices- increase freedom;
 - 3. Create conditions conducive to ensure self-esteem and dignity of individuals

Human Development-2/3

- **3 dimensions:** access to resources, health, and education
- **4 Pillars:** equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment
- **4 Approach:** Income approach; Minimum needs approach; Welfare approach; Capabilities approach

Human Development-3/3

- **Negative and Positive conceptions of human Development**

- **Negative:** modern, western, liberal conception
 - Equality of opportunity, Rights, Liberty, material resources, physical comforts/pleasure
 - Negative freedom, Negative Rights
- **Positive:** ancient, normative, philosophical
 - Flourishment of human life, happiness, self-autonomy, self-realization, moral perfection
 - Positive freedom, positive rights

- **Human Development Index(HDI):**

- By UNDP, composite index between 0-1 to denote human Development in a country
- Proxy indicators
 - Access to resources(living standard)- per capita GNP
 - Long and healthy life- life expectancy at birth
 - being knowledgeable- mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age
- India's HDI is **0.645**; 131 out of 189 countries

Limitations of HDI:

- Measures attainments Not shortfall in human development
 - **Human poverty index:** The probability of not surviving till the age of 40, the adult illiteracy rate, the number of people who do not have access to clean water, the number of small children who are underweight, etc.
- Does not say anything about the **distribution**
 - Ex: per capita GNP grew by 10 % but median per capita income reduced by 10%, persons below poverty line increased by 10 %, how?
- Does not reflect on inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, and positive development

Approaches to Development

Approaches to Development

- Income Approach
- Welfare Approach
- Rights Based Approach
- Capability Approach
- Sustainability Approach

Income Approach

- Traditional Approach during 1950s and 60s
- Based on the concept of the stages of economic growth- development was viewed as a series of successive stages through which all countries had to pass
- A sustained increase in the GDP at rates more than 5 to 7 % per annum through saving, investment and foreign aid;
- Structural changes in economy- share of agriculture(primary) declines, while the share of manufacturing(secondary) and the service (tertiary) sectors increases.
- The objectives of poverty elimination, economic inequalities reduction and employment generation were mentioned but only as a passing reference.
- **trickle-down effect**
- **Criticism:** Neglecting the distributive justice
- Supporting political ideology: Liberalism, Neo-liberalism

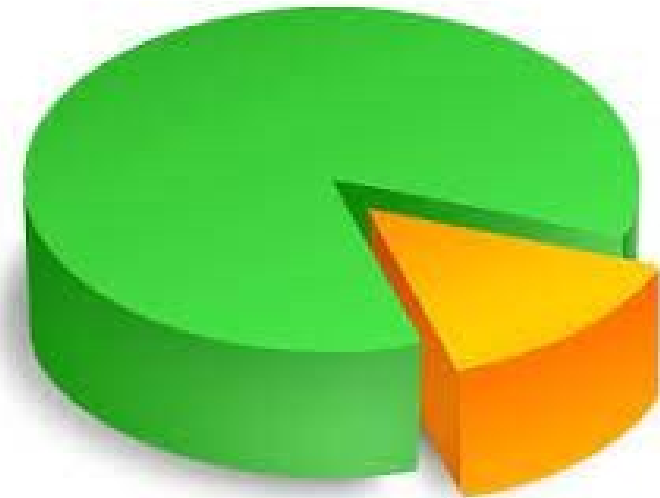
The Republican Trickle-Down Theory



"He says that the more he eats the more crumbs we will get."

The principle that the poor, who must subsist on table scraps dropped by the rich, can best be served by giving the rich bigger meals.

-William Blum



Make the Pie larger

Welfare Approach

- **Welfare:** the health, happiness, and well-being of a person or group
- By early 1970's realization that Income approach had failed to improve the poverty and quality of life of masses
- Direct policy measures towards eradication of poverty, providing more diversified employment opportunities, and reducing income inequalities
- Notion of the Welfare State- provider of welfare products/services
- **Principles:** Utilitarianism- greatest happiness of greatest number; Social choice theory; Rawl's theory of distributive Justice
- **Criticism:** poor as objects of charity, passive recipient of welfare; populism
- Supporting political ideology: Social Democracy, and socialism

Right based approach

- Based on the concept of Human Rights
- **Human Rights:** Basic rights(dignity, fairness, equality, respect and autonomy) available to each one as equal member to humanity
- Development is protecting, ensuring, and expanding human Rights
- Human Rights into development discourse
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)- 1948;
 - World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna-1993
 - linking democracy, human rights, sustainability and development
- **Development:** enabling people to demand their rights, and states to be able to fulfil their obligation to provide those rights.
- **Core themes:** Universality and Inalienability, Equality and Non-Discrimination, Participation and Inclusion, Accountability and Rule of Law
- Criticism: Undermine cultural relativism, driven by western values and agenda
- **Political ideology:** Positive Liberalism

Capability Approach

- Developed by Prof. Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum
- Development is increasing functional capabilities (long life, education, engage in gainful economic transactions, participate in political activities);
 - assessing how well people are doing is their ability to live a life that we have reason to value, not their wealth of resources or subjective well-being
- Development as freedoms; **freedom**- capabilities to engage in desired activities to achieve outcomes that are valuable
- Poverty is understood as un-freedom or capability-deprivation
- Core themes: Freedom of choices(to achieve well-being), well-being in terms of people's capabilities and functioning

Sustainability Approach

- Based on the concept of sustainable development
- Development which protect environment/ecology, uses natural resources judiciously, and does not jeopardize development for future generations
- Mainstreaming the discourse of sustainable development
- 1970s: 'Limits to Growth', 'Silent Spring', Brundtland Commission Report- 'Our Common Future' ; 'Tragedy of the Commons'; Rio Earth Summit-1992
- **UN SDGs-17 goals(2015-30)**- No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Sanitation, Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, etc.
- Political Ideology: Green politics, Eco-feminism
- **Issues:** Different perspectives of Developed and Developing Countries; Right to pollute; development vs ecology; common but differentiated responsibility

Alternate Conceptions of Development

Gandhian model

Marx's model

Gandhian Notion of Development

- **Development is Freedom- Swaraj**
- **For individual** it denoted self-mastery, self-control, self-restrain, self-realization, moral goodness & perfectibility
- **For Community** it meant self-governing autonomous community life without any formal coercive authority; full rights of civil liberties, and civil disobedience against any unjust actions/law of the state/govt
- **For political economy** it denoted classless economic order, equal honour/dignity for all kinds of labour, self-renunciation(limiting our wants), Trusteeship, Sarvodaya(welfare of all), and Antyodya (care for the last one)
- It also meant **freedom from want**, material possession, ego, bondage of so called modern materialistic life- modern large machine, faster transport system, competition/conflict-court/lawyer, modern medical system- doctors, etc.
- **In sum**, it was his vision of an ideal civilisation based on **Non-violence** (अहिंसा), **Truth**, and moral **duty** (Dharma) in contrast to western modern civilisation based on violence/force, material possession, and Rights

Development as Freedom- Prof Amartya Sen

- Development to Prof Sen should be seen as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy and which make them capable to lead the kind of lives they have reason to value.
- **Narrower views of development:** growth of gross national product, rise in personal incomes, industrialization, technological advance, social modernization
- Increasing substantive Freedom and Human Capabilities should be the end/goal of development; Freedom (free agency) is also means of development
- Truly Free & capable people can effectively shape their own destiny and help each other.
- They won't remain poor; neither they will be passive recipient of welfare goods/services

5 Freedoms

- **Political Freedoms**

- Freedom to vote, fight election, political participation

- **Economic Facilities**

- Freedom to enter into market: trade/commerce/contract, Employment, access to resources

- **Social opportunities**

- **Proper education**, health care, social recognition, social equality & equity

- **Transparency guarantees**

- Transparent & open governance system

- **Protective Security**

- Social Security- unemployment allowances; old age care, pension, etc.

- These freedoms are inter-linked and strengthens each other.

- Economic unfreedom can breed social unfreedom, just as social or political unfreedom can also foster economic unfreedom.

Marxian concept of Development

- Development is historical evolution in mode of production through class struggle
- **Primitive** subsistence society--→**master-slave** society--→ **Feudal** Society(lord-serf)--→ **Capitalist** society(capitalist-labourer)--→ **Socialist** society (Dictatorship of Proletariats') --→ **Communist** Society
- **Communist Society- Final stage of development**
 - Classless, stateless society
 - **Development is freedom**
 - True freedom is social production in which each individual contribute freely as per his ability, and get as per one's need and relate to fellow man as equal
 - Human development is Man working to realise essence of being human, act of self-realization
 - *“it will be possible for me to do one thing today and another tomorrow, to hunt in the morning, fish in the afternoon, rear cattle in the evening, criticize after dinner, doing just that which gives me pleasure without ever becoming a hunter, fisherman, shepherd or critic. This will be the real state of freedom for man from alienation and exploitation”* (Marx)

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

BE SAFE ...GOOD WISHES !